

Space Shuttle

SCRIPT:

Start the engine, and feel the rumble of 44 million horsepower.

You're riding a rocket on your way to 18,000 miles an hour – fast enough to take you from New York to Chicago in three minutes.

Once you reach outer space, the shuttle is no longer flying...it's floating. You can even get out and stretch your legs. Of course, you're still going 18,000 miles an hour. But with no air, it doesn't feel like you're moving at all.

Up ahead is the International Space Station. It's a lonely little outpost in the vast new frontier of space. Your job is to make contact, deliver food and supplies, and then say good-bye. There's a long road home, and it won't be easy.

The shuttle returns to Earth like a meteor from outer space.

Special insulation protects the people on board as the outside temperature reaches 3,000° F...hot enough to melt steel.

Finally, it drops out of a clear blue sky and starts to fly...like a plane coming in for a landing – a plane that's also a rocket ship, and a space ship, and an adventure like nothing else on Earth.

Relevant NSES Standards

NSES Content Standard A: Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry.

(Grades K-4) Scientists use tools to gather data.

(Grades 5-8) Using appropriate tools to gather data.

(Grades 9-12) Using technology to improve scientific investigation.

NSES Content Standard D: Earth and space science.

(Grades K-4) Objects in the sky. (Reaching into space).

NSES Content Standard E: Understanding about science and technology.

(Grades K-4) Inventing tools and techniques to solve problems.

(Grades 5-8) Technology is essential to science.

(Grades 9-12) Science often advances with introduction of new technology.

NSES Content Standard F: Science in social perspectives.

(Grades K-4) Inventing ways of solving problems; getting work done.

(Grades 5-8) Scientists work in many different settings.

(Grades 9-12) Science is an enterprise of society.

NSES Content Standard G: History and nature of science.

(Grades K-4) Deriving pleasure from science (riding a spaceship).

(Grades 5-8) Scientists (astronauts) are among the most valued contributors to society.

(Grades 9-12) Science meets human aspirations.

Credits: Dr. Patricia Knezek, Space Telescope Science Institute/WIYN Consortium Inc.
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